Government accorded approval, in principle, to the US Government to establish a Consulate at Hyderabad in February, 2006. The official announcement to open a Consulate in Hyderabad was made during the visit of President George Bush to India in March, 2006.

List of wanted Criminal

†298. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have dispatched Pakistan Government the list of wanted criminals and terrorists at present residing over there in the last three years and till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, till date;

(c) whether Pakistan Government have shown any interest in handing over such wanted criminals and terrorists to India; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Lists of criminals, known to be residing in Pakistan, were handed over to Pakistan during the Home Secretary level talks on "Terrorism and Drug Trafficking" held in 2004, 2005 and 2006, with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. Pakistan has not responded positively to these requests.

Candidature for Secretary General of UN

299. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan and China have decided to oppose candidature of Mr. Shashi Tharoor for the position of Secretary General of UN;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the diplomatic action taken by Government to persuade them not to stand in the way of Mr. Tharoor's candidature and muster support from other members in his favour?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Nuclear deal with US

300. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nuclear deal with US is on the verge of completion;

(b) if so, the current position of this deal; and

(c) by when the final production of electricity would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) India and the United States agreed on 18 July 2005 on the resumption of full civil nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries. In fulfilment of its commitment to separate its civilian facilities from military ones, the Government formulated a Separation Plan that, in its final form, was tabled in Parliament on 11 May, 2006. In pursuance of its obligations, the US Administration has approached the US Congress to adjust its laws to permit the resumption of civilian nuclear cooperation with India. The US House International Relations Committee and the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted in favour of Bills to that end on 27 June and 29 June 2006 respectively. The Bills will now be considered and voted upon on the floor of the House and the Senate and if they differ, be reconciled for a final vote.

(c) Only when these and other steps envisaged in the 18 July Joint Statement are completed can the Government contemplate atomic power projects that involve international cooperation. At the present moment, it is difficult to predict when that would happen, as decisions have to be made by bodies and organisations that are independent of or outside the control of the Government. Therefore, the time it would take for production of electricity from neclear power plants set up as a result of international cooperation cannot be indicated at this time.